

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 07799 281817Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 /066 W
-----024417 290151Z /62

R 281739Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8929
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBNSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 7799

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PFOR, JM, CU
SUBJECT: POLICE FEDERATION HEAD SEES POLITICAL CONSPIRACY BEHIND
CRIME WAVE

REF: KINGSTON 7712

1. PRIME MINISTER MICH
L MANLEY'S DECEMBER 20 STATEMENT TO MEMBERS
OF THE POLICE FEDERATION (SEE REFTEL) "...NOBODY BELIEVES...
THAT THE HOME GUARD CAN DO (THE POLICE'S) JOB" APPEARS TO HAVE
BEEN A RESPONSE TO A REMARK BY THE DNV ERATION# CHAIRMAN,

INSPECTOR E.K. LOBBAN. IN A COLUMN PUBLISHED DECEMBER 23 IN
"THE GLEANER", WILMOT PERKINS WROTE THAT LOBBAN HAD SUGGESTED
THAT THE PRESENT CRIME WAVE IN JAMAICA HAS BEEN INSPIRED IN ORDER
TO GAIN POPULAR ACCEPTANCE FOR THE HOME GUARD. ACCORDING TO
PERKINS' COLUMN, LOBBAN SAID THAT THE MURDERS OF POLICEMEN THIS
YEAR -- NOW UP TO 30 -- AND THE ONGOING SPATE OF VIOLENT CRIME
MAY BE LINKED "TO THE POSSIBLE EXISTENCE OF A PLOT" TO CREATE A
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"PEOPLES' MILITIA". PERKINS WROTE FURTHER THAT LOBBAN ADDED
THAT THE PLOT WOULD ONLY SUCCEED "OVER THE DEAD BODIES
OF EVERY SINGLE SERVING MEMBER (OF THE POLICE), TRAITORS AND
OTHERS APART."

2. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION THAT LOBBAN MADE THE REMARKS
ATTRIBUTED TO HIM. CERTAINLY, THEIR APOCALYPTIC CHARACTER MAKE

THEM HARD TO ACCEPT. WHAT EVER THE TRUTH MAY BE, THE REMARKS --
OR SIMPLY THE REPORT OF WHAT ARE SAID TO BE THE REMARKS -- DEMON-
STRATE THE MEASURE OF CONCERN PRESENTLY EVIDENT REGARDING THE
USES TO WHICH THE HOME GUARD MIGHT BE PUT. THE GOVERNMENT ARGUES
THAT THE HOME GUARD WILL SERVE ONLY AS AN AUXILIARY OF THE POLICE
BUT THE REMARKS ASCRIBED TO THE POLICE FEDERATION HEAD AGAIN
UNDERLINE THE WIDESPREAD CONCERN THAT THE HOME GUARD WILL BE MUCH
MORE INDEPENDENT. THE RECENT STATEMENTS BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND
THE MINISTER FOR NATIONAL SECURITY, KEBLE MUNN, THAT THE HOME GUARD
WILL RECEIVE CUBAN ASSISTANCE (KINGSTON 7631 AND 7370)
HAVE BEEN THE MAIN CAUSE OF THE HEIGHTENED APPREHENSION.
IRVING

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
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